

Bessemer Bend Bridge  
Spanning North Platte River at Bessemer Bend,  
on County Road No. 58  
Casper vicinity  
Natrona County  
Wyoming

65  
HAER No. WY-~~47-1~~

HAER  
WYO,  
13-CASPY,  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record  
Rocky Mountain Regional Office  
National Park Service  
U. S. Department of the Interior  
P. O. Box 25287  
Denver, Colorado 80225

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

HAER  
WYO.  
13-CASP. V,

Bessemer Bend Bridge

HAER No. WY-<sup>65</sup>~~47-D~~

1-

Location: Spanning North Platte River at Bessemer Bend, on  
County Road No. 58; 6.3 miles southwest of Casper, in  
Natrona County, Wyoming

UTM: 13.374785.4736380  
Quad: Emigrant Gap

Date of Construction: 1921-1922

Present Owner: Natrona County  
200 North Center  
Casper, Wyoming 82601

Present Use: Vehicular Bridge

Significance: The Bessemer Bend Bridge is a unique subtype of the  
standard Warren truss. One of only three Warren  
Through trusses still in use on the County Road System,  
it is the only one with verticals at alternating panel  
points. The two pony approach spans are also unusual,  
though not unique in their configuration.

Historians: Clayton B. Fraser and Richard G. Ewig  
November 1981

~~NOTE: For more general information, see Wyoming Truss Bridges Survey,  
HAER No. WY-17.~~

I. HISTORY

Built in 1921-22 for Natrona County, the Bessemer Bend Bridge spans the North Platte River at the historic Bessemer Bend crossing of the Oregon Trail, an important emigrant site.<sup>1</sup>

II. DESCRIPTION

The bridge is a single span, steel rigid connected Warren Through truss with verticals at alternating panel points and a single span Warren Pony truss on either end. The through truss is 195 feet and the pony trusses are each 65 feet in length. The roadway width is 18 feet, 10 inches. The top chords are two channels with cover plate and lacing; bottom chords are two channels with batten plates, verticals are two angles with lacing, and the diagonals are two channels with batten plates or two angles with batten plates.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Natrona County Commissioners' Minutes, October 5, 1921.

<sup>2</sup> Historical Bridge Survey and Inventory Form. Wyoming State Highway Department.